

Message Text

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12/21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 /090 W

----- 051428

R 181552Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 446

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USLO SACLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4014

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CHANGE ADDES TO USLO SACLANT VICE
SACLANT)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFRO PARM PBOR MILI UR SV NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIANS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER ROCKET FIRING IN BARENTS
SEA

REF: MOSCOW 12989

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED).

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY INSTRUCTED

NORWEGIAN EMBASSY MOSCOW, WHICH MADE DEMARCHE TO SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EXPRESS NORWAY'S CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET
ROCKET TEST FIRING IN BARENTS SEA BECAUSE OF DANGER TO NOR-
WEGIAN FISHERMEN AND NAVIGATION. SOVIETS HAD EARLIER

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INFORMED NORWEGIANS ABOUT TEST FIRINGS BETWEEN SEPT 16-17

IN A 40 NAUTICAL MILE RADIUS IMPACT AREA ON HIGH SEAS LOCATED BETWEEN THE CONTINENTAL SHELF MEDIAN LINE AND SECTOR LINE 200 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF NORWEGIAN MAINLAND. THIS IS IN AREA NOW SUBJECT TO NORWEGIAN-SOVIET CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO KJELL ELIASSEN, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS, NORWEGIANS DID NOT "PROTEST" SOVIET ACTION SINCE AREA IN QUESTION IS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. RATHER THEY EXPRESSED "CONCERN" BECAUSE OF DAGNERS TO THEIR FISHERMEN AND SHIPPING. IMPORTANT FISHING AREAS LIE TO NORTH AND SOUTH OF IMPACT AREA. NORWEGIAN SHIPS OFTEN TRAVERSE AREA AND FISHERMEN PASS OVER IT TO REACH FISHING GROUNDS ON EITHER SIDE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASED STORY TO PRESS WHICH HAS GIVEN IN PROMINENT COVERAGE, POINTING OUT THAT SOVIET ACTION HAS TO BE SEEN AS POWER PLAY AMID CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS AND CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT SOVIETS DO NOT ACCEPT NORWEGIAN POSITION. NORWEGIANS BASE THEIR POSITION ON MEDIAN LINE STEMMING FROM CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION; SOVIETS ARE ARGUING FOR A BOUNDARY CONSIDERABLY TO THE WEST OF THE MEDIAN LINE BASED ON "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES". PRESS ARTICLES NOTE THAT SOVIET POSITION COULD INVOLVE A "PACKAGE DEAL" INVOLVING MORE THAN LEGAL ISSUES.
(END UNCLASSIFIED)

3. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) ELIASSEN SAID THAT NORWEGIAN EMBASSY OFFICER MADE DEMARCH IN MOSCOW SEP 75 TO SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY SCANDINAVIA DESK OFFICER. DISCUSSION WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD. IN REPLY TO NORWEGIAN APPROACH, SOVIET OFFICIAL POINTED OUT IMPACT AREA WAS ON HIGH SEAS AND SOVIETS HAD EVERY RIGHT TO CONDUCT TESTS. BUT HE REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SINCE THIS WAS AREA UNDER NEGOTIATIONS AND ONE WHERE NORWEGIANS HAD HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES THEY COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE INTERESTS THERE. HE SAID MATTER WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF HIS SUPERIORS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TOLD DCM SEPT 17 THAT
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HE THOUGH CASE DEMONSTRATED THAT SOVIETS WANTED TO FLEX THEIR MUSCLES FOR THE UPCOMING CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT HE HOPED ISSUE WOULD NOT BE OVERPLAYED NOR BECOME PUBLIC DEBATE WHICH MIGHT DISRUPT UPCOMING SHELF NEGOTIATIONS. (END CONFIDENTIAL)
BYRNE

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